

(d) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) At present, there is no first class coach in the composition of 1011/1012 Mahalaxmi Express. On conversion of rake of 1011/1012 Mahalaxmi Express from vacuum brake to air brake system, an AC—3 tier coach has been added, thereby providing 40 additional berths and air conditioned comfort. Though the II AC coach of the train is fully utilised, the average waiting list of passengers which is only 7 per day from Kolhapur side and 3 per day from Mumbai side and does not justify augmentation of the train with another AC—2 tier coach.

(b) to (d) (i) Representations have been received for attaching first class coach on the train. Railways as a policy have decided to discontinue with First class coaches which are vacuum brake stock while the rake of the train is on air brake system and it is not technically feasible to attach a first class coach on the train.

(ii) Representations have been received for attachment of Ist AC coach or a composite first AC cum AC II tier coach on 1011/1012 Mahalaxmi Express. As AC II and AC 3 tier accommodation is fully utilised, this demand can only be met by augmenting the load of 1011/1012 Express. Augmentation on a regular measure is not feasible due to platform constraints at Mumbai and limitation of diesel traction available on the route due to which length of the train from its present composition of 18 coaches cannot be increased. One extra coach is sometimes provided to clear extra rush when special precautions are taken.

Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution Authority

*189. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an authority known as the Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution Authority has been constituted under the Environment Act of 1986;

(b) how many schemes under this Act for protection of Taj Mahal have been implemented; and

(c) how much expense has been incurred under this scheme since the last three years?

THE MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALLU): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Taj Trapezium Zone Pollution (Prevention and Control) Authority has been constituted on 17.5.99 under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. A scheme called the Taj Protection Mission is being implemented for protection of the Taj Mahal. The scheme presently includes 10 projects. A sum of Rs. 74.28 crores has been spent till 30.6.2000.

Production of Aluminium

*190. SHRI. BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) The production of aluminium during 1998-99 and 1999-2000;

(b) the details of aluminium producing companies;

(c) the names of the companies whose production has declined; and

(d) the steps being taken to increase the production of aluminium?

THE MINISTER OF YOUTH AFFAIRS, SPORTS AND MINES (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) There are five primary producers of Aluminium, namely National Aluminium Company Limited (NALCO), Bharat Aluminium Company Limited (BALCO), Hindalco Industries Limited (HINDALCO), Indian Aluminium Company Limited (INDAL) and Madras Aluminium Company Limited (MALCO). Total production of Aluminium during the years 1998-99 and 1999-2000 was 5,45,253 Tonnes and 6,17,992 Tonnes respectively.

(c) In the year 1999-2000, production declined only in the case of MALCO as the Company was not operating at full capacity during the period April to September, 1999.

(d) In order to increase the participation of the private sector, the Aluminium Industry has been exempted from the provisions of Compulsory Licensing. Foreign investment upto 100% equity participation is also permitted on the automatic route. The two major